

Effect of Education and Performance Feedback on Handwashing in A Hospital Of Trabzon, Turkey.

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**BACKGROUND:** Patients admitted to hospitals are at risk of acquiring nosocomial infections. Many peer-reviewed studies show that handwashing (HW) significantly reduces hospital infections and mortality rates. Our objective was to evaluate the effects of education and performance feedback on handwashing compliance before contact with patients in two Intensive care Units at one Public Hospital of Turkey . We performed an observational study of health care workers (HCW) to measure the effect of education plus performance feed-back.

**METHODS:** One hospital was studied for adherence to a handwashing protocol. The observed healthcare workers included physicians, nursing personnel, and ancillary staff. Following initial observations to establish baseline rates of HW (phase 1), we evaluated the effect of education plus performance feed-back (phase 2).

**RESULTS:** Phase one was from January to February 2004, and phase two from March to August 2004. We observed 1,298 patient contacts in two Intensive care units. The baseline rate of handwashing before contact with patients was 35.16% (96/273). With education and performance feedback handwashing increased to 55.41% (568/1,025) (RR 1.58; 95% CI 1.27 - 1.96; P value: 0.0000).

**CONCLUSIONS:** In this study, HW policies, education, and performance feedback of the HCW significantly improve worker adherence to the handwashing protocol.